Measures for prevention of fire accidents

315. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the results of the investigations made into the causes of fire accidents that took place during the last three years in the capital in multi-storeyed buildings, hotels and other public premises have been studied; and

(b) whether any long-term and short term measures have been undertaken to prevent such fire accidents in future in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) In the year 1983 after the Gopala Tower's fire, the Fire Advisory Committee headed by Major General Singhal was given a list of about 220 multi-storey buildings in Delhi for the purpose of recommending fire safety measures in these buildings. The Committee has inspected the buildings and made recommendations on the mandatory fire prevention and fire safety precautions to be adhered to by the owners/occupiers of the multi-storey buildings. These recommendations were also submitted to Government.

(b) The recommendations have been accepted. The owners/occupiers of the multi-storey buildings have been directed to comply with the specific steps to be taken for ensuring fire safety of their respective buildings.

The Building Bye Laws, 1983 did not confer statutory authority for enforcing compliance of its mandatory provisions. During the current session of Parliament, it is proposed to introduce legislation on fire prevention and fire safety which will empower the Delhi Fire Services to take action against illegal occupation in buildings which continue to be insecure against fire.

Acquisition of Aircraft-Carrier for Indian-Navy

316. SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any negotiations were carried on in recent weeks with some UK firms for the acquisition of an aircraft-carrier for the Indian Navy ;

(b) if so, what are the details and results thereof; and

(c) what type of aircraft-carrier is proposed to be acquired and its cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH: (a) to (c) Negotiations were conducted with the Ministry of Defence, U.K. concerning the acquisition of the Aircraft Carrier HMS HERMES. A Sales Agreement has been signed with the U.K. Government on the 19th April 1986 for the acquisition of the ship after its dry docking and refit, together with spares, stores, and services at an estimated cost of £ 63 million.

Disturbances in Manipur and Tripura

317. SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent reports in a section of the press of disturbances caused in some areas of Manipur and Tripura by insurgents killing some people: and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to curb such activities of insurgents in Manipur and Tripura ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY(SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) Yes,Sir.